THE INSTALLATION CELEBRATION OF
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY’S SIXTEENTH PRESIDENT

WENDY WINTERSTEEN

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS
TO SERVE. TO LEAD. TO EXCEL

FRIDAY, THE TWENTY-FIRST OF SEPTEMBER, TWO THOUSAND EIGHTEEN
STEPHENS AUDITORIUM, AMES, IOWA

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
I believe in the future of Iowa State University — in the potential of our students, the excellence of our researchers, the transformative power of our educators, and the strategic commitment and dedication of our staff. Together, we will build upon our great historic land-grant foundation and make Iowa, our nation, and this world a better place for future generations.

- President Wendy Wintersteen -
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I am very honored and humbled to stand before you today as the 16th president of Iowa State University – and as a proud graduate of this extraordinary institution – with one of our nation’s most beautiful campuses.

My deep appreciation to Governor Kim Reynolds for joining us, along with Congressman Steve King, Mayor John Haila, and the many other dignitaries here today. I also wish to thank the president of the Board of Regents, Dr. Michael Richards, and all of the regents who volunteer their time and energy to carry out their very important duties as regents.

My sincere thanks to our former president, Greg Geoffroy, and interim president, Ben Allen, and their spouses for attending the celebration today, as well as University of Iowa President Bruce Harreld and University of Northern Iowa President Mark Nook, and all the representatives of institutions of higher education here in Iowa. My husband, Robert Waggoner, and I are especially thankful for Kathy Geoffroy’s presence here today and her very kind assistance in getting us established at the Knoll.

It is so wonderful to see so many family members, friends, and colleagues in the audience along with our students, faculty, and staff. I deeply appreciate your support, prayers, and good wishes. Seeing all of you reminds me how blessed I am to be raised in the Midwest by supportive parents who knew the profound impact of education and hard work – and who encouraged me to follow my dreams.

A year ago when I was applying for this position, I introduced myself to the search committee in my application letter by mentioning the university-wide campaign led by the ISU Foundation, “Forever True, For Iowa State.”

I wrote, “As a dean, proud alumnus, and donor, the idea of ‘Forever True’ touches me very deeply, since it clearly expresses my 38-year relationship with this university and underlies my reason for applying. If
selected as president, the Cyclone faithful will immediately know that this is someone who is not passing through, but is, like them, ‘Forever True.’”

As president, I promise to serve this great university so that it may reach its highest potential and academic excellence. With the assistance of my great administrative team, the deans, our excellent faculty and staff, our caring and supportive alumni and donors, I pledge to lead this university forward to becoming the best land-grant university in the nation. Working together, we will continue to excel – we will excel in our world-class science and research; we will excel in the classrooms and hands-on teaching labs; we will excel in the arts and humanities; and we will excel in our land-grant mission to support the people and economic vitality of this state.

**MY PERSONAL ISU ADVENTURE**

My ISU adventure began on a cold, snowy day in November 1978. After an interview in Ames, ISU Extension offered me a position as an integrated pest management field specialist in southeast Iowa. I did not realize how fortunate I was to be part of ISU Extension. There, I found a welcoming and inclusive environment, where people were eager to share their scientific research, organizational knowledge, and personal insights to help me succeed. Discovering the interconnected nature of research, teaching, and extension was truly exciting.

A few years later, I decided to seek a Ph.D. in entomology at Iowa State. Dr. Dave Foster acted as my major professor. Dave was my mentor by example – in his laconic way, he mentored me by his actions; in fact, as I remember back, he barely spoke to me in the first three months. Yet, I heard the verbal and nonverbal messages. From his actions, I learned a new way of being. Dave modeled professionalism, the scientific approach, and how to be engaged in one’s discipline.

Specifically, he made it clear that every day comes with choices – and that choices lead to pathways with consequences. He taught me to recognize that I was on a path, and that I was creating the direction of that path, knowingly or unknowingly – so I might as well think about where I was going, and act in a way to get there.
Little did I realize that consistently trying to do my best would create a pathway to the presidency. After progressing through the ranks as a staff person, as a faculty member, senior associate dean, and then 11 years as dean of the great College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, I sensed that Iowa State may be looking for a new president as someone who understood the history and culture at Iowa State, supported its land-grant mission, and cared deeply about its faculty, staff, and 35,000 students, and would dedicate their life to advancing this great institution and its academic excellence. I decided to lean in and take that chance – to be part of this historic opportunity. I am so grateful to have been selected to serve.

However, I do need to say that during the past 10 months, there’s one question I frequently ponder when faced by various university challenges: Why didn’t Ben Allen take care of that?

Seriously, we all owe Ben and his lovely wife, Pat, tremendous gratitude for coming and serving Iowa State University.

**ISU: Welcoming and Inclusive**

Next year on my birthday, ISU will celebrate 150 years since the very first presidential inaugural celebration on March 17, 1869. In that first inaugural ceremony, the president of the Board of Trustees, B.F. Gue, stated: “It is one of the chief aims of this College to break down the barriers which belong to the darker ages of the past, and open these doors to any of God’s people, whether high or low in social circles, rich or poor, white or black, man or woman.”[1]

The Board of Trustees sought to dedicate this institution “to the education of the working people of Iowa.”[2]

In his installation address, our first president, Adonijah Welch, made note: “The great obstacle to all reform is prejudice.”[3] He fully supported the ideals of the Iowa State Agricultural College to educate both the sons and the daughters of this great state, regardless of race, so that everyone could achieve their full personal and academic potential, and use that knowledge to better their lives, their communities, and the state of Iowa. In his address, President Welch mentioned that at that time, only four other colleges allowed admission to women as equal partners.
The founders of Iowa State Agricultural College were practical idealists. In a few short years after the Civil War, they set out to “reform” higher education – to open it up to all classes, races, and genders – and to focus on the practical arts and sciences necessary for future growth and discovering “the mysteries of nature.” They knew that prejudice was based on ignorance. They stated that every person in this state had “a natural right” to higher education, if they were willing to work for it.

Being welcoming and inclusive is built into the DNA of this university from its founding moments. As president, I will work to serve this ideal, and strive to make ISU set the standard among the land-grant universities as a leader in creating a welcoming and inclusive environment – where anyone who is willing to work hard can achieve their full potential. As a proud alumna and this university’s first female president, I represent the active expression of that ideal of inclusiveness. I intend to nurture this ideal and energize it for all those who come after me. It is one of my top priorities.

By virtue of this ideal, Iowa State admitted George Washington Carver in 1891 – the son of slaves – who went on to graduate with a bachelor’s and master’s degree from Iowa State and then served as our first black faculty member. He used that knowledge and foundation in “science with practice” to revolutionize agriculture and food technology, especially in the South. Years later, George Washington Carver noted, “Education is the key to unlock the Golden door of freedom.”[4] Not only one’s personal freedom, but freedom from want, from food insecurity, and most important, from ignorance.

At that time, who knew what he would become? Who could foresee the inventions that he would create? Or the transformative science and the “mysteries of nature” that he would share with the world? As I walk across campus each day greeting students, a part of me wonders, ‘Is that young man or young woman the next George Washington Carver? What inventions and discoveries will these students make to help the world?’

**AN EXCITING TIME**

One reason this is an exciting time to serve as the president of Iowa State is the tremendous engagement and support of the university’s alumni and friends. It’s rewarding to hear from so many alumni who feel their education here literally transformed the direction of their lives – and they give back to ensure the
same opportunity for future generations. Last year, nearly 36,000 alumni and friends supported ISU! Can you imagine? 36,000! The impact of their giving is seen in every corner of this beautiful campus, sustaining the university’s land-grant mission of teaching, research, extension, and service.

During the past year, we’ve had some extraordinary donor investments, and each of these is linked to a feeling of gratitude for their student experience and ongoing engagement with the people and programs of Iowa State University.

Last year, we named the College of Business the Debbie and Jerry Ivy College of Business in recognition of a gift of $50 million dollars from the Ivys that is already supporting scholarships, faculty, and programs in the college. They know the transformational power of education. Regrettably, Debbie and Jerry Ivy could not be with us today. But will you please join me in applauding them for their generosity, practical idealism, and caring philanthropy?

Last year, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences was also delighted to receive from an anonymous couple a large gift of stock in Curriculum Associates, an educational technology firm. The sale of the stock resulted in more than $150 million dollars for the college to increase student scholarships, support high impact learning experiences, and recognize outstanding faculty.

Iowa State’s legacy of inclusiveness and service continues as a living tradition in this third gift. This summer, I visited Uganda for the opening of the ISU Uganda Mpirigiti Training Facility by our Center for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods. This wonderful program is transforming the Kamuli District in Uganda – home of some of the poorest poor – and also transforming the lives of our students and faculty who spend time there. We are so thankful for Karen and Jerry Kolschowsky and their entire family for supporting our Center for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods, our Global Resource Systems major, and providing the majority of funds for this facility and having the vision to ensure Iowa State becomes a truly global institution.

I am particularly excited about the Student Innovation Center – a new building going up just west of the Marston water tower – where half the funds came from the state of Iowa, and the rest from generous donors, including a remarkable $20 million gift from an anonymous couple. There, students will have
a supportive and special place to collaborate on ideas and innovations to advance science, solve real world problems, spark new businesses, and learn how innovators and entrepreneurs move the economy of this state and country forward.

**INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURISM**

As president, I have made it a priority that our students, faculty, and staff know that Iowa State University is a campus that encourages innovation and supports entrepreneurs. In fact, I want a spirit of entrepreneurism to be a significant part of the Iowa State brand – one of the special things that sets us apart. As our alumnus and publishing entrepreneur, Roy Reiman, told his publishing team about his magazines, “First we make them different, then we make them better.”[5]

Iowa State must be different; it must stand out from the pack. Then it must be better than the rest.

As president, I intend to establish a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem where innovating is built into the curriculum … and where innovations and entrepreneurial ideas come from our students, faculty, and staff, and that they receive support to move those ideas forward. Building on the success of the Ivy College of Business’ major and minor in entrepreneurship, we will create and support undergraduate entrepreneurial programs in our other colleges to better prepare our students for the new economy of rapid change.

Over the course of its history, Iowa State has distinguished itself as the birthplace of many inventions and innovations. As many of you know, Iowa State University built the very first electronic digital computer. John Vincent Atanasoff, a former Iowa State professor of physics and mathematics, and Clifford Berry, a former physics graduate student and electrical engineering undergraduate, built the computer at Iowa State University from 1937 to 1942.[6] Iowa State considered but did not file a patent on this revolutionary technology. Imagine the possibilities!

Iowa State and its community of scholars has been and continues to be the home of some of the world's greatest innovations. But we must both support and recognize innovation, in order for our work to make a powerful impact and change this world for the better.
I am pleased to report that last year our faculty had a banner year in terms of commercializing their research and innovation. Worldwide, Iowa State ranks in the top 100 universities granted U.S. patents in 2017. And last year, Iowa State researchers earned 32 U.S. patents. Also, ISU has 366 active commercial agreements related to ISU technologies and germ plasm.

As president, I will encourage the next step, where our faculty, staff, and students are supported in helping their innovative research lead to an increasing number of patents licensed by industry. And for those with entrepreneurial ambitions, I want to assist them in actively creating new businesses here in Iowa.

For decades, Iowa State has been an engine of economic development for the state and a powerful resource for companies in solving technical problems. We need to continue that important work while also creating a new generation of ISU research-backed startups. I want to see the ISU Research Park flourish with activity that expresses the brilliance of our faculty, staff, and students, and acts as a magnet for businesses worldwide!

**THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE AND FACULTY AND STAFF EXCELLENCE**

As ISU reaches for greater heights, I will reward and recognize the excellence of our teachers and the success they achieve in the classroom. In the words of Albert Camus, “Real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present.”[7] – and I see this every day in the actions of our faculty and staff toward our students. They give their all to educate and inspire these students. With the rapid enrollment growth in the past 10 years, we must provide the tools and resources that enable our faculty and advisers to touch and inspire all of our students.

Aligned with that goal, we must continue to make the student-centered experience a priority for every college. We must increase the number of students who can take advantage of high impact learning experiences – whether it is an aeronautical engineering field trip to Boeing in Seattle, a fashion merchandising event in Paris, or a marine biology trip to the Virgin Islands. Similarly, we must support our students who wish to study abroad – in Brazil, China, India, Africa, in Rome – and around the world.

ISU is known for its very high student retention rate. But we must develop and implement new approaches to improve our graduation rates. In the coming years, I hope to work with the Iowa State University Foundation to raise funds to offer “completion grants” to those students who need a final bit of financial
support to finish their degree. Imagine being 12 credits away from graduating but having no funds to finish that final semester. These completion grants provide the final bit of financial help to get our seniors across the finish line, so they can graduate.

And finally, I will make it a priority to recruit, nurture, and retain excellent faculty. Iowa State has a long and proud tradition of discovering talented faculty and staff, but we must continue these efforts by seeking funds to support their needs for world-class facilities, graduate assistants, and research. We must seek funds to grow new research programs in engineering, in agriculture and life sciences, in veterinary medicine, in liberal arts and sciences, in human sciences, in business, and in design – to create nationally ranked departments in each college.

It is an exciting time to be the president of Iowa State University. But it is also a challenging time.

Even though our resources seem limited and ISU offers one of the lowest tuition rates in the nation, my administrative team and I continue to work to offer an incredible educational opportunity:

- by strategically pruning away less fruitful efforts and investing in more fruitful ones; and
- by seeking to improve our own administrative efficiency.

In a word, we will serve, lead, and ultimately excel by constantly innovating.

As lead administrator, I will work with the university administrative team and the ISU Foundation to seek out and engage new funding streams. We must identify innovative new government partnerships, public-private partnerships, and global and venture capital partnerships to grow this great university and achieve our fullest potential.

My passion for Iowa State continues after these 39 years because I know how it transformed me. I know Iowa State has transformed many of you here today. Your university experience allowed you to accomplish things in your life that you could never imagine.
I believe in the future of Iowa State University – in the potential of our students, the excellence of our researchers, the transformative power of our educators, and the strategic commitment and dedication of our staff. Together, we can build upon our great historic land-grant foundation and make Iowa, our nation, and this world a better place for future generations.

Now let me finish my remarks by returning to the final comments spoken by President Welch as he looked forward to building this great university almost 150 years ago: “God give us mutual confidence – mutual esteem and mutual helpfulness. Thus shall we be able to gather and concentrate all the elements of strength we possess – and thus, with the Great Father’s blessing, will the rolling years bring their full harvest of fruits.” [8]

Thank you for supporting Iowa State University and allowing me to serve!

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Notes

Thank you President Richards, and good morning everyone. For me, this is a real treat to be back at Iowa State – a place that is so very special for me, where I have so many wonderful memories and so many good friends.

I have enjoyed seeing the many changes that have occurred since I left – like the growth in the research park, campustown redevelopment, the changes around Jack Trice Stadium, the several new buildings, and especially the big new dormitory next to Buchanan Hall!

But it’s also good to see the many, many things that so characterize Iowa State that have not changed – central campus, the campanile, Lake LaVerne, and especially the university’s exceptionally strong focus on students and on providing them a top quality education. The evidence of that is the tremendous enrollment growth that has occurred since I left, growth that is a direct reflection of Iowa State’s student-centered reputation, a reputation that is so well deserved.

And, of course, I am especially delighted to be here to participate in this ceremony and introduce the 16th president of Iowa State University – Dr. Wendy Wintersteent.

I first met Dr. Wintersteent 17 years ago during my early visits to campus, and then I came to know her well over the ensuing years. The more I interacted with her, the more it became clear to me that she had a number of special leadership talents. And I was deeply pleased to appoint Dr. Wintersteent to her first senior leadership position, the endowed dean of Iowa State’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and then, of course, I was even more delighted, but not at all surprised, when she was selected to be Iowa State’s 16th president.
Now, when I was asked to give this introduction for Dr. Wintersteen, I knew it would be quite a challenge because she needs no introduction since she is so well known. After all, for the last 40 years she has been part of this university, and she is exceptionally well known across the entire state of Iowa.

Dr. Wintersteen’s roots are deep here in the Midwest. She grew up in Kansas and received her bachelor’s degree from Kansas State University in crop protection. She then immediately joined Iowa State University’s Extension Service, working with farmers in eastern Iowa on integrated pest management. She simultaneously pursued her Ph.D. in entomology at Iowa State and was then appointed to the faculty in that department. In 2000, she was named director of the College of Agriculture’s extension programs, and two years later, she was appointed senior associate dean and associate director of the Iowa Agriculture and Home Economics Research Station. Then in 2006, I had the great pleasure of appointing her dean of the college, a position she held for 11 years.

From her background, it should be clear that Dr. Wintersteen is deeply wedded to the university’s land-grant mission – to serving the state of Iowa and its citizens in whatever way that service can be best provided. Through her previous appointments, she has traveled to all parts of Iowa, shared countless meetings and dinners with Iowa’s citizens, met with Iowa’s leaders, and listened to and heard the concerns of Iowans, their interests, and their expectations of their land-grant university.

Dr. Wintersteen is truly land-grant through and through. She understands what service means and believes in it. I am told that the license plate on her car even reads “To Serve” and that she has worn out three cars while traversing Iowa serving that land-grant mission!

Now all of that is information that is probably well known about Dr. Wintersteen. But I wanted to try to add some color to her personality and her many talents, so I called around to my many friends on campus to see if I could find some characteristics of Dr. Wintersteen that might not be so well known. Perhaps some interesting personality quirks, maybe some funny stories, or some unusual hobbies.

But, alas, I learned very little. President Wintersteen is just a straight arrow. No one could recall any quirks, funny stories, or strange hobbies. There were the frequent comments about how hard she worked and that
when folks traveled with her, she always seemed to be busy working on her several electronic gadgets. Although I do know firsthand, from when I traveled with Dr. Wintersteen to Africa to see our programs there, that she took plenty of time to appreciate and enjoy the people and the areas we visited.

The other things I heard just reinforced what I already knew about Dr. Wintersteen’s leadership style and her talents. People spoke about her disarming smile that immediately puts people at ease and her way of talking to people that is just nonconfrontational, and how humble she is and how she never brags about herself. Although she will brag effusively and effectively about Iowa State!

President Wintersteen is especially regarded as a great listener. She truly listens to the views and opinions of others and works to understand how other people think about issues before she reaches her own conclusions. She is not afraid to ask questions and to admit that she currently doesn’t have the answer. And she is very gracious if she disagrees with your point of view. She will politely tell you that she does not agree, with that disarming smile, and will then be very firm in her decision. A very good friend on campus, Professor Max Rothschild, told me that she has a way of telling you “no” and somehow making you feel really good about the decision when you leave her office. And knowing Max, he had many occasions to hear “no.”

Although Wendy is very thoughtful and doesn’t jump to conclusions, she is also very decisive. When she makes a decision, she is firm in it. And she can take the heat if it is a decision that not everyone agrees with, something I saw firsthand with several very challenging decisions she had to make as dean.

Friends on campus also noted how frugal President Wintersteen is, a characteristic that should serve her and Iowa State well in these difficult budget times. I was told that she is so frugal that she named her two cats Penny and Nickel – Dime and Quarter were just too rich for her!

People just like President Wintersteen and she is regarded as a great person to work with, a comment that I heard from people at all levels. And she truly loves Iowa State and everything about the university, including all things athletic. I recall seeing her many times with her husband, Robert, at Cyclone events, all dressed in cardinal and gold and cheering with enthusiasm.
This past January, not long after Dr. Wintersteen took over as president, I saw her in action at a big alumni gathering in Florida organized by Iowa State’s fundraising arm where she gave a “state of the university” address to about 200 invited alumni. And it was fabulous. In one of her first big speeches as president, she came across as confident, unpretentious, relaxed, and sincere, and she just made people feel really good about the university and its future. Iowa State is so very fortunate to have President Wintersteen in charge at this moment in its history.

For these are challenging times for universities and for university leaders as they have to deal with the many issues permeating our nation – the divisiveness, the incivility, and the partisanship that inevitably spills over onto university campuses and creates all sorts of issues that university leaders must face. Important issues related to diversity, freedom of speech, immigration, the balance of political and social views, and so many others.

There’s also the growing questioning about the value of a college degree and whether alternative forms of education and workforce training should be given more emphasis. There are most certainly the concerns about student debt and the cost of a traditional college degree, along with the ongoing budget pressures, funding cuts, and calls forever more efficiencies and cost savings. And there is the growing competition from online education providers where the quality of education is steadily increasing at a cost less than that typically charged at brick and mortar institutions like Iowa State.

All of this is very daunting and reinforces the need for universities and university leaders to focus on rebuilding the public trust, to clearly demonstrate the value of their educational offerings, and to demonstrate that universities like Iowa State truly care about the views and concerns of their constituents and that they are good stewards of the responsibilities and funds entrusted to them, things that I know that President Wintersteen can do extremely well.

President Wintersteen is exactly the right person to be at the helm of Iowa State at this time in its history, and I congratulate her on her appointment as the 16th president of Iowa State University. And I congratulate the Board of Regents and all involved for selecting such a terrific president to lead this great institution, one that I care so very deeply about.

Congratulations Wendy!
It is customary at the installation of a university president for representatives of the university’s many constituencies and its governing authorities to bring greetings to the new president. As a member of the Board of Regents, I am honored to bring greetings to Dr. Wendy Wintersteen.

As president of the board, I have had the pleasure of being involved in many special events with Dr. Wintersteen over the past several months; however, two stand out as particularly memorable.

The first was following the board’s meeting to determine the next president.

I had the pleasure to publicly announce on October 23, 2017, that Dr. Wintersteen had accepted our invitation to become the 16th president of Iowa’s land-grant university. In announcing the board’s decision, I stated that “The board was impressed by her vision for Iowa State’s future and that I considered her “one of the Cyclones’ own.” She has worked at Iowa State for most of the past four decades, and she knows this institution through and through. In these days of migratory university leadership, it is highly unusual for an individual to grow intellectually as a graduate student and through the employee ranks as an extension staff member, earn a Ph.D., and assume a faculty position. Then gain the trust of a major college to serve as an outstanding dean and now the presidency.

On behalf of my fellow regents, we are proud and recognize her promise as Iowa State University’s president. She will help ensure this proud university’s growth, allowing each student, staff member, and faculty member to make a difference in today’s world. The day I announced that Dr. Wintersteen would be Iowa State’s 16th president, and its first woman president, will always be a highlight of my own presidency as well as for my fellow regents.
The second event that stands out is today’s ceremony, where we officially invest Dr. Wendy Wintersteen with the duties, responsibilities, and privileges of this esteemed office. One hundred forty-three years ago, a group of people gathered on this campus for an event not unlike this ceremony today. The date was March 17th, 1869, the official opening of the Iowa Agricultural College and Model Farm, and the installation of its first president, Adonijah Welch. At that installation, Iowa Governor Sam Merrill said to Dr. Welch:

“To you, sir, and your associates, I am happy to give expression to the personal and official confidence I cherish in your fitness for your work. No better wish can be expressed than that your success may be commensurate with its importance. May the fruits of your labors be as abundant as the fruits of the soil whose mysteries you are called to reveal.”

Dr. Wintersteen, may your success, as well, be commensurate with the importance of your work, which is to continue to build a great research university whose purpose is to create, share, and apply knowledge to make Iowa and the world a better place.

Congratulations and best wishes.
Dr. Wintersteen – I am extremely pleased to participate in this historic installation ceremony. Congratulations on becoming the first woman president of Iowa State University. On behalf of the state of Iowa, I extend to you and your husband, Robert – the first gentleman of ISU – a warm Iowa welcome.

This is such an exciting time in Iowa. Now, more than ever before, we are creating and fostering a diverse economy by using the abilities and strengths of our citizens. As a result, we are seeing an undercurrent of optimism, passion, and energy spreading across Iowa communities in all four corners of our state.

It is a movement that is igniting startups and unleashing innovative solutions to solve the challenges we see in our world. Together, we are working to improve Iowa’s innovation ecosystem, in order to grow our economy for the future.

President Wintersteen, given this transformational environment, along with your highly successful career at ISU, I believe you are perfectly positioned to lead this prestigious land-grant institution into the next decade.

Under your leadership as dean, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences ranked in the top 10 in the world. It became the third largest agriculture college in the country. You also have a proven record in promoting entrepreneurship and advocating for the important role of STEM.

You are focused on extending ISU’s tradition of excellence, while forging new paths to achieve even greater success. I know you will attain this important balance through ingenuity and imagination. Because as you’ve stated in recent months:
“At ISU, we can change the future through research and innovation and produce entrepreneurs who start businesses in Iowa. We can do it through entrepreneurial opportunities and through the ISU Pappajohn Center for Entrepreneurship. We can do it through our partnership and collaboration with community colleges. There are so many ways to expose our students to an entrepreneurial mindset.”

As president, you clearly understand ISU’s vital role in being at the center of cutting-edge, high-tech innovations and graduating individuals who are tomorrow’s leaders and problem-solvers.

You often talk about how individuals have the ability to totally and completely change the course of a life for the better. Your compassion and concern for others is contagious. You have made a tremendous difference for students, faculty, and staff for nearly 40 years at ISU.

Moving forward, I have no doubt your influence will continue to serve as a catalyst for improving people’s lives.

President Wintersteen, I wish you the best at one of the nation’s leading land-grant institutions!

The entire state of Iowa and I, personally, look forward to working with you.
On behalf of the student body I would like to congratulate and greet you with Cyclone Pride as our 16th president as well as first woman president of Iowa State University.

Even before becoming president, you had already done wonderful things at Iowa State, especially as the dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. I am truly excited to see that work reciprocated throughout the university in your new role. I am glad that you have a focus on creating a more inclusive and engaged campus for our students, a mission that I hope to be of assistance in.

In the time that we have worked together, I have recognized the passion you have for improving the student experience and reminding us that students are the heart of our university. I am truly hopeful for our university and anxious to see where you take us!

To all the students in the audience, will you please stand and help me greet President Wendy Wintersteen?
On behalf of the graduate and professional Students at Iowa State University, I am honored to greet President Wendy Wintersteen today as the 16th president of this prestigious institution.

Central to the graduate community of ISU is its richness of diversity, the cultures that it represents, and its unwavering commitment toward our collective progress and success. We are from Iowa, from other states of the United States, and from all over the world. In my brief time of getting acquainted with President Wintersteen’s vision, I feel nothing less than pride that we have a leader who believes in building a community on six important principles of community:

- Respect to harbor understanding and creating strategies for resolving disagreements that have long held distinct communities from expressing themselves openly;
- Purpose to progress knowledge and expand upon boundaries of science and creative arts;
- Cooperation to string together the diverse efforts and unify them for our collective and individual success;
- Richness of diversity to cherish all forms of ISU experience;
- Freedom from discrimination to overcome biases and create equal opportunities; and
- Honest and respectful expression of ideas to harbor courteous and honest disagreements.

The graduate community, representing the greatest fraction of the international community, stands together with your vision to be the future of higher education. We extend our support in enriching opportunities for individuals, families, communities, and businesses and supporting your vision for Iowa State and its glorious future. We vow to be at the forefront of progress to better societies all over the world.

Here’s to building this vision together.
On behalf of the Iowa State faculty, it is my honor to welcome Dr. Wendy Wintersteen as our 16th president. President Wintersteen, you are – and you have been for a long time – one of us.

We are looking forward to working with you as we strive to make Iowa State University a prominent land-grant university – one that is appreciated by people in both small- and large-town Iowa, throughout the United States, and in cosmopolitan cities around the world.

Our faculty are creative, innovative, and dedicated to their field, and we pledge to support you by conducting research that addresses critical issues of our times. We are poised to educate the next generation of leaders in the state of Iowa to be active, concerned, and ethical citizens.

As a world-renown university, we will strive to make our work accessible to and connected with the people of Iowa. We will promote diversity and inclusion, acknowledging that we learn more from those who are different from ourselves.

Finally, the faculty at Iowa State University want to succeed in making Iowa State a great place to work so that every faculty member feels engaged and connected.

These are exciting and challenging times for our state, for our nation, and for the world. We will not ignore the challenges that are upon us, and we will give much of our time and talent. President Wintersteen, you can count on us.

On behalf of the Iowa State Faculty Senate, my heartfelt welcome!
President Wintersteen, I am honored to welcome you on behalf of all professional and scientific employees as you continue your journey to advance the impact and excellence of Iowa State University.

Installation addresses typically call for institutional change. In 1869, our first president called for a new approach to education – leaving behind classical education to combine “learning and labor.” Our second president, William Chamberlain, called for increased enrollment of women. Eighty years later, President W. Robert Parks called for a “new humanism.”

I am certain your installation address, “To Serve. To Lead. To Excel.” will frame the context of how professional and scientific employees and the Iowa State community will work with you to build this next chapter of our proud history.

Professional and scientific employees are perfectly positioned to work with you to build our university’s future. We are the largest employee group at Iowa State University and through advising and advocating for students, conducting and assisting with research, and providing many types of outreach and direct assistance to people across Iowa and the world, we are dedicated to making Iowa and the world a better place and to fulfilling the mission of Iowa State University.

President Wintersteen, the professional and scientific employees look forward to many opportunities to work with you to cooperatively strengthen our land-grant institution and secure the future for ISU and our students.
Dr. Wintersteen, I am honored today to welcome you as Iowa State University’s new president. It is my considered opinion that your institutional knowledge, achieved through many years of service to ISU, was a significant factor in the Board of Regent’s decision to choose you to lead ISU. Like you, many of the 1,300+ merit staff have served ISU for most of their careers. That body of knowledge is just one of the many reasons that merit staff share your commitment to enhancing the ISU experience for all.

Merit staff look forward to working with you, Dr. Wintersteen, and the ISU community so that all “are safe and feel welcomed, supported, included, and valued by the university and each other.” (Goal Four, ISU Strategic Plan (2017 – 22))
President Wintersteen, I am honored to bring you greetings on behalf of the more than 260,000 alumni of Iowa State University.

I’ve had the opportunity to speak with numerous alumni and friends since you were named Iowa State’s 16th president, and I can tell you, without question, that there is tremendous support for your leadership. Alumni and friends recognize your long-standing commitment to listening and willingness to engage in dialogue, which serves to strengthen the ties that bond our diverse community together. Your strong character, your commitment to excellence, and your deep and abiding love for Iowa State are among the virtues our alumni hold most dear and solidifies the trust we all place in you.

As Cyclones everywhere gather together to celebrate your formal installation, we offer you our very best wishes for professional success and personal fulfillment as you lead our great university.

So on behalf of the Iowa State University Alumni Association’s board, alumni, and staff, I am honored to reveal to you and all those present that following this celebration, I will present you a commemorative book from the approximately 53,000 association members. Each member’s name is listed for your remembrance of this day and serves as a reminder that you have our loyal support.

President Wintersteen, our alumni family is delighted to welcome one of our own to take on the grand challenges of leading our alma mater.

Congratulations, enjoy, and Go Cyclones!